

Students and teachers of Rajarampur Govt. Primary School celebrate after becoming zonal champions in the mega Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary Schools Championship in Dinajpur yesterday. The championship that involves more than 62,000 primary schools from across the country, got underway last month.

Kim clinches Doha title

Tennis

AFP, Doha

Kim Clijsters followed her defence of the US Open title with a display of great resilience to recapture the WTA Championships title after an interval of seven years here on Sunday.

Clijsters, 27, powered her way to a 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 win over world number one Caroline Wozniacki, despite not having competed at all during the seven weeks since her US Open success because of a foot operation.

The Belgian also had to recover from the disappointment of seeing the 20-year-old Dane come back from a set and 1-4 down to take the match to an enthralling decider.

"I am very relieved it is over," said Clijsters after her two-hour 20-minute victory, "because it seemed it would never end."

"It was a very tough battle, and I think it was a fine advert for

women's tennis. I'm glad I won but I don't know how many more years I will play, and I think Caroline has a great future ahead of Clijsters succeeded because she had the more naturally forceful game, remained unfazed by the ups and downs of an

unpredictably long drawn out battle, and played some of her best tennis in the final stages. Asked if she were surprised to have won the title without having competed for seven weeks, Clijsters said: "In my first career I wouldn't have been able to do," referring to the days

"But now I know myself better. I have had plenty of practice, so I already have a match rhythm a little bit, and I try to adjust as fast as possible after I got here."

It was a disappointment for Wozniacki because she had wanted to answer those detractors who questioned her status as the world's number one because she has not yet won a Grand

Slam title.

This title would have been the next best thing, though there were moments when it looked within her reach, and she did suggest -- with her tactical adaptability, and tremendous court coverage -- that she has the capacity eventually to win it.

"It was still a fantastic week for me," said Wozniacki, who achieved the year end top spot with her second win of the week here. "I would love to come back here, and I would love to try for this title again."



Kim Clijsters of Belgium celebrates with the trophy after beating Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in the WTA Championships final in Doha on Sunday. Clijsters won 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

'Pakistan must remove players' insecurity'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Abu Dhabi

Shortly after playing the "greatest innings" of his career, Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq has urged the team management and administration to work towards removing the uncertainty players feel over their place in the team because such an atmosphere is counterproductive to Pakistan's success.

Razzag, who blitzed 109 off 72 balls to wrench the second ODI from South Africa's grasp in Abu Dhabi, said he too felt insecure about his spot in the side and that Pakistan had failed to maximise his potential over the years.

"I always play the match as if it is my last," Razzaq said. "If players have this constant fear hanging over them that they will fail and then be dropped then they will never be able to perform properly. Even I felt that if I didn't do anything in this game I would be dropped. This threat has to be removed from the team because it is not productive.

"Those guys who don't perform for a couple of matches, they shouldn't be dropped so quickly. They need to be encouraged and their morale needs to be boosted."

Razzaq launched his breathtaking assault against South Africa from No. 7 in the line-up, a position at which he's batted 81 times in his

Dhoni & co

Ahmedabad

The Indian cricket team arrived

here on Monday for their first

match of the three-Test series

against visitors New Zealand,

starting November 4 at the

Tendulkar, Zaheer Khan, Rahul

Dravid, VVS Laxman, coach Gary

Kirsten, Virender Sehwag,

Suresh Raina, spinner Pragyan

Ojha and others arrived at the

Ahmedabad airport Monday

The Indian team is likely to

practice at the stadium later in

the afternoon, officials of the

Gujarat Cricket Association said.

has always been a happy hunt-

ing ground. He had scored his

career's first double century at

Motera Stadium against New

He also celebrated his 20

years in Test cricket at the

same stadium by scoring a

century against Sri Lanka in

Following a hectic schedule

which saw the national play-

ers spend more than a month

at BKSP before going for club

training and Federation Cup,

Rubcic has designed the train-

ing camp that will have four

sessions in the country and

Rubcic has also asked the

"The coach has asked us to

enjoy the training and remain

free from tension," said

Meshu, who played all seven

games for Sheikh Jamal in the

Federation Cup before sus-

taining injury during the final.

United Arab Emirates on

November 9 before playing

against Hong Kong on

November 11 as top two teams

will qualify for the next round.

Rubcic's realisation is that

Bangladesh will start the Asiad

campaign as underdogs which

may give the team an advan-

tage in the tournament.

Bangladesh will take on

players to shrug off the fatigue

from the Federation Cup and

two more session in China.

concentrate on the Asiad.

Zealand in 1999.

November 2009.

FROM PAGE 17

Rubcic's

For Tendulkar this venue

The players including Sachin

Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera.

arrive in

PTI, Ahmedabad

morning.

245-ODI career. The remainder of his innings, however, has been spread over every position, from opener to No. 11. He's also not been a regular member of the ODI side, despite his match-turning potential, and was exiled for two years for his association with the unofficial Indian Cricket League.

"I think my talent has not been properly utilised both in batting and bowling, especially, my batting spot has never been permanent, Razzaq said. "I don't think I have been utilised properly over the last five or six years as a bats-

Sunday's performance against South Africa was Razzaq's first fifty-plus score in over four years and his first century since September 2004. It was the third time in 2010, however, that Razzaq pulled off victory for Pakistan. In the previous two instances, he scored 46 off 18 balls in a Twenty20 international against England in Dubai, and 44 off 20 balls in an ODI at Lord's.

Razzaq hoped his century against South Africa would lift Pakistan cricket, which is reeling from spot-fixing allegations and poor on-field performances. "Every time there is a controversy or we lose one or two matches, people start to write us off, which is wrong,' Razzaq said. "I would request the fans to please keep faith in us so that we can lift ourselves."

The ODI series between Pakistan and South Africa is level at 1-1 ahead of the third match on Tuesday in Dubai.

ishment. The ICC suspended

the players because Pakistan

cricket authorities did not

withdraw them after the allega-

tions were levelled, so now the

players have a case to answer

before the commission," he

Mohammad Asif were sus-

pended in September after

claims of spot-fixing during the

team's tour of England. All

three appealed, but Asif later

sympathy for 18-year-old

players, especially Aamer, but I

would blame the Pakistan

Cricket Board for lack of

real work had been done with

the bat and Ingram's second

ODI century was a real old-

even if it contained a classy

punch through midwicket. But

once he jumped down the track

and lofted Razzaq down the

SOUTH AFRICA: 286 for 8

(Amla 65, Ingram 100, De

Villiers 29, Duminy 54; Riaz 2-

PAKISTAN: 289 for 9 (Hafeez

30, Younis 18, Misbah 17,

Fawad 48, Afridi 49, Razzaq

Result: Pakistan won by one

Man-of-the-match: Abdul

109 not out; Langeveldt 3-75)

wicket and level series 1-1.

ground, nerves were shed.

SCORES IN BRIEF

43, Afridi 2-59)

Razzaq.

grooming of these players.

Iqbal added that he felt

"I do feel for all the Pakistan

withdrew his application.

Aamer.

(Salman)."

the ground. Eighteen runs but school effort. The start was edgy,

Salman, Aamer and

Mixed reactions

on ICC verdict

Cricket

Former Pakistan cricketers and

officials voiced mixed reac-

tions on Sunday after the ICC

rejected the appeals of Salman

Butt and Mohammad Aamer

against suspensions over spot-

Council code of conduct com-

missioner heard appeals on

Saturday and Sunday before

Asif Igbal said the decision was

but it was expected because the

ICC upholding the suspension

proves that they have enough

evidence against the players to

levy those sanctions," Iqbal

-- flat-batted over extra cover,

high over long-on and down

no expression. Wahab Riaz's

run-out off the last ball was

merely collateral damage as 53

fall of Alam that if the match

was to be won, it would be by

him alone, so with the tail in,

several singles were turned

down. With 25 needed from

12, Langeveldt was lofted

down the ground and then

pulled with cartoonish vio-

lence to midwicket. By the

time Razzaq had taken the 14

needed off the last over he had

scored 63 of the last 65, effec-

tively from the 45th over

Razzaq had decided at the

from 24 became 33 from 18.

"Suspension is not a pun-

Former Pakistan captain

"It may be disappointing,

announcing the verdict.

The International Cricket

AFP, Karachi

fixing claims.

no surprise.

told AFP.

FROM PAGE 17

dusted.

Div swimming on in M'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshigani

The Dhaka Divisional Swimming Championships started at the Munshiganj Swimming Pool amid festivity yesterday.

Some 150 swimmers from 14 districts are competing in 21 events in the two-day meet, organised by the Dhaka Divisional Sports Association.

Earlier, Dhaka's Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Moeen Uddin Abdullah declared the meet open as the chief guest.

Army's annual athletics start

UNB, Dhaka

The annual athletics competition of Bangladesh Army, under the supervision of 46 Independent Infantry Brigade, began at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

On the opening day, heats of 400-metre hurdles, 800metre run, 100-metre sprint and 4x400-metre relay were held.

Ten teams from Bangladesh Army are taking part in the five-day event.

Earlier, Brigadier General Rezanur Rahman Khan inaugurated the five-day competition as the chief guest.

National

FROM PAGE 17 Narayanganj.

GROUP B: Dhaka, Chandpur, Comilla and Bangladesh Air Force.

GROUP C: Satkhira, Mymensingh, Rangpur and BKSP. GROUP D: Narsinghdi, Chittagong, Kushtia and Gazipur.

Cricketers

FROM PAGE 17

The committee also discussed on coach Jamie Siddons' wish of not arranging day-night matches in the upcoming series against Zimbabwe. It was learnt that Siddons expressed his desire for all day matches due to heavy due factor in December.

But the technical committee "The only way Asif and referred the issue of holding the Aamer can get leniency is if third ODI of the Bangladesh and they say they did it on the Zimbabwe series next month as orders of their Test captain a day-nighter, as per the recommendation of the Cricket Operations Committee, to the board.

Tigers opt

FROM PAGE 17

much better cricket than New Zealand in these conditions and you know they have some good spinners like Ray Price and they have also some good batsmen," he added.

Siddons also echoed the sentiment saying: "Zimbabwe has a strong team and we have to play our best cricket and there is no chance to be relaxed and we need to be prepared well to beat them. I think when the last time they were here we were okay. But if we play our best cricket there will be no contest."

The Australian was also not worried about the return of Grant Flower in the Zimbabwe side.

NZ look to bounce back on Thursday with the remaining two to be

Cricket

before the birth of her daughter Jada.

AP, Ahmedabad

New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori wants to use the upcoming tour of India to motivate his team and bounce back from their recent shocking performance in Bangladesh.

"India is playing incredible cricket, is an experienced side and has a tremendous home record," said Vettori. "But this is an important tour for us and we are looking at it as an opportunity to start playing well again."

New Zealand lost a five-match one-day series in Bangladesh by a 4-0 margin earlier this month and takes on the world's top-ranked Test side in a three-Test series that will be followed by five limited-overs internationals.

The first Test gets under way in Ahmedabad

Vettori felt the change in format to the fiveday game would do his team good.

"It is a fresh start for us. It is Test cricket and we have new players here who were not part of the team that played in Bangladesh," Vettori

played in Hyderabad and Nagpur.

"We have quite a few young players with two to three years of experience in first class cricket and we are looking for good performances from them," he added. India recently beat Australia 2-0 in a home

Test series and also prevailed 1-0 in a threematch limited-overs series in which two matches were washed out.

India will be boosted by the return of batssecond Test against Australia at Bangalore.

men Gautam Gambhir and VVS Laxman, and pace bowler Ishant Sharma, who all missed the

the world and we as an England team want to

"So you can only do that by coming here and

Broad, who was docked 50 percent of his

match fee earlier this year for petulantly throw-

ing the ball at batsman Zulgarnain Haider dur-

ing the second Test against Pakistan at

Edgbaston last August, said he would have to

keep his emotions in check in what is shaping up

"I know I bowl at my best when I'm in a bit of a

"But obviously I need to find the right balance

become the best team in the world," he said.

performing strongly."

to be a tense series.

to that."

Broad can't wait

Cricket

AFP, Perth

England paceman Stuart Broad said Monday he was approaching this month's Ashes series with no fear and was ready for the challenge against Australia. The temperamental bowling giant said his

teammates will thrive on any Australian taunts during the five Tests as England search for their first series win Down Under in 23 years. England last won a Test series in Australia in

1986-87 and their last tour to the Lucky Country finished in a humiliating 5-0 whitewash.

The Nottinghamshire firebrand said anything the Aussies dished out would only serve as motivation for the England team.

"I'd expect the Aussies to get under each of our players' skin, but it's not something we're scared of, it's something we're going to thrive on," Broad told reporters on Monday.

"I'm certainly coming here without any fear and just looking to enjoy the experience.

"It's good we've had some players who have been here before to share their experiences and communicate with the boys about where we can improve.

"But it's a different group from last time, it's a different set-up. So we are coming here confident."

Broad, 24, said England were under no illusions about how tough the coming months

would be for Andrew Strauss's team. "I mean Australia are one of the best teams in

Broad has become a key member of

bubble and emotionally competitive," he said.

England's Test set-up since breaking through for his debut three years ago, averaging 28 with the bat and taking 97 wickets at 34 in 32 Tests.

He starred in England's Ashes win last year, claiming 5-37 to help skittle out Australia for 160 in the first innings of the fifth and deciding Test at

The Oval. England had a minor scare at Monday's training when leading spinner Graeme Swann

took a painful blow to his right thumb while batting in the WACA Ground nets. However, an England team spokesman said

the injury was not serious and Swann was expected to be available for the three-day match against Western Australia starting on Friday.

"Yeah, he's fine. It's just a bit of precautionary strapping," Broad said. "I don't think he's in any trouble at all. He just

got a bit of a blow, which you're used to.

"I think he's pleased his thumb got him out

of the running [session]."

22 23

39

16

GM quits AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) general manager Geoff Allott said Monday he will step down at the end of the month, making him the first casualty of the Black Caps' unprecedented series loss to Bangladesh. Allot said the 0-4 whitewash

to Bangladesh last month, described by local media as a low point in the team's history, showed the NZC had to rethink its strategy and he was not part of the plan.

"I have effectively restructured myself out of a job, but I truly believe this to be in the best interests of cricket," the former international bowler said.

This was a difficult decision for me to make because I am passionate about the game that has given me so much." Allott had initially described

the Bangladesh whitewash as a "bad hiccup" and insisted no management overhaul was needed for the Black caps to bounce back.

NZC chief executive Justin Vaughan said Allott's decision to resign was selfless.

"Geoff has made an enor-

mous contribution to cricket in New Zealand," he said.

Westwood new world No. 1

AFP, London

Lee Westwood was officially confirmed as the new world number one on Monday ending Tiger Woods's five-year long reign at the top.

The 37-year-old Englishman moved marginally ahead of the American despite not playing last week as he had amassed more ranking points over the last two years. He is the first European golfer to head the rankings since Nick Faldo in 1994.

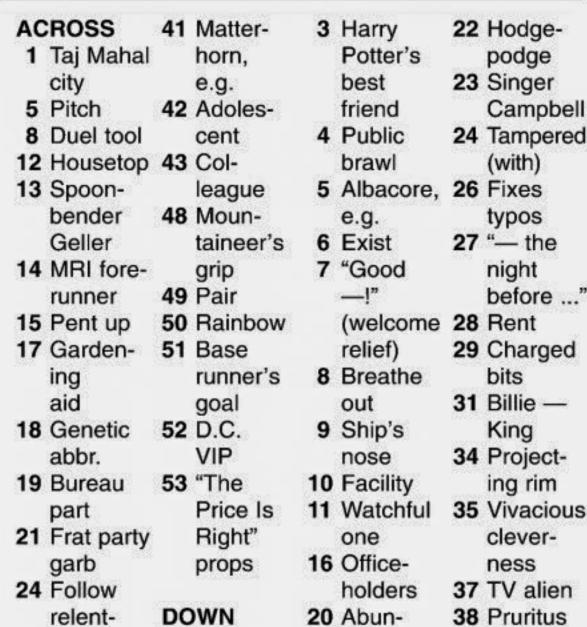
35

50

53

45 46 47

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



of — 25 Partner in 21 Body 2 Stickum powder crime 26 Post-Solution time: 21 mins. parade J E T B E A R S M E W A L A U N C U T O R A B I M O N T H L Y N I N litter

1 Joan

POR

lessly

30 Whopper

37 Fools

38 Crazy

B Y E E L A T E D
C A V I A R R E N E 31 "Ulysses" author O R E N E T D O Z E D W I R Y D O C N U K E 32 Court 33 Meeting LAMASPOPMEN ONCEMALADY attendant BUNKUMPIE 35 Deserve LEMONTREE **36** Fat

PROSE

TYPED

dant

41 Unsigned (Abbr.) 44 Have bills 45 Historic time 46 Predeter-

39 Infamous

player

fashion?

lyre

40 Line of

mine the

outcome **47** Ar

follower

H LNPFLS PHAZUC LHF

UCDR FLNDA-XZUCI FSYYCFF,

CRYPTOQUIP

YNSXI ECNEXC FHR LC'F

BSFA H GXHFL ZP BHEHP? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN OWLS AND

PARROTS LIVE IN UNIVERSITY DORMS, I BELIEVE

THEY MUST HAVE TO PAY ROOM AND BIRD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P

Razzmatazz of Razzaq "We must think that we are going to play most of the matches under lights in next onwards. Six sixes came in the inevitable run-out and even last four overs, and only at the year's World Cup, so we must though Razzaq had reached play at least one day-night very end, after crashing a drive his fifty, it was done and match in the series. We must through point, did he let his take the risk and it's not good to emotions out, dropping his always stay in the comfort The 47th over, bowled bat and trying to run but not zone," saidYunus. poorly by Charles Langeveldt, knowing where to go. was pivotal. Razzaq launched a That put to shade all that sequence of length balls for went before it. South Africa's three sixes in his favourite areas